

Appl. No. 09/681,065
Amdt. dated April 18, 2003
Reply to Office action of December 18, 2002

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22, 24-55, 63-110 and 114-221 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 56-62 were withdrawn in connection with a prior response. Claims 23 and 111-113 have been cancelled via the claim amendments presented above. New claims 156-221 have been added via this Response. Consequently, a Fee Transmittal form, authorizing a charge to Deposit Account No. 19-2260 for the extra claim fees, accompanies this Response. In addition, a Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time accompanies this Response. Further, if it is determined that any other additional fees have been generated by this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-2260 in the amount of such fees.

The Office Action acknowledges that claims 23, 24, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76 and 77 are directed to allowable subject matter. Consequently, claim 23 has been cancelled and independent claims 1, 114, 125, 135, 145 and 155 have been amended to include a limitation related to the limitation of claim 23. New independent claims 156 and 194 also contain a limitation related to the limitation of allowable claim 23. Claim 24 has been amended so that it is consistent with currently amended claim 1 from which it depends. New independent claim 175 contains a limitation related to the limitation of allowable claim 24. The various sets of new dependent claims are related to prior filed claims 7-15, 25 and 46-51.

New independent claims 216-221 are related respectively to claims 70, 71, 73, 74, 76 and 77. Section 18 of the official communication indicates that claims 70, 71, 73, 74, 76 and 77 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 216-221 present claims 70, 71, 73, 74, 76 and 77 in independent form.

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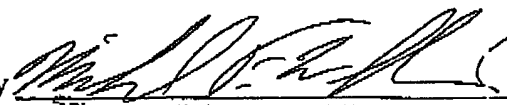
Claim 63 is rejected in section 3 of the office action. Claim 63 has been currently amended to clarify that the marker dispenser is an automated marker dispenser. As noted by the Examiner, the cited references do not disclose a marker dispenser. The type of dispenser used in connection with the system of the cited reference, however, would have been a manual dispenser such as a human hand. There is clearly no indication or disclosure in the references combined in section 3 of an automated marker dispenser that would dispense markers in an automatic fashion.

It is believed, due to the indication of allowable subject matter in section 18 and due to the inclusion of allowable subject matter in the various independent claims, that the pending claims are all in condition for allowance. Consequently, further discussion and analysis of the Action's application of the cited references is deemed to be unnecessary at this point. The absence herein of further discussion of the cited references should not be deemed to be an admission of agreement with the reasoning provided in the various sections of the Action.

Applicant requests entry of the amendments and new claims presented herein. In addition, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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